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JILL H. RYAN  
SARA J. FISHER  
KATHY CHANDLER-HENRY

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Jared Polis  
501 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

We are writing to express our support for the Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act recently proposed by your office. As you are aware, Eagle County played an active role in analyzing and vetting the original wilderness expansion effort, then known as the Hidden Gems Wilderness Project, which included the Freeman Creek, Spraddle Creek and No Name wilderness additions. We believe these areas continue to qualify for wilderness protection status, and we are pleased to see that they have been included in your proposed legislation.

Wilderness lands reflect the history and heritage of Colorado's scenic high country. In Eagle County, their presence and availability is essential to local lifestyles, the quality of our environment and the strength of our tourism economy. While a balanced approach to land management that considers the needs of all user groups is necessary, we believe that expending wilderness to carefully selected land areas will provide long lasting benefits. We would note certain lower elevation lands that were included in the original Hidden Gems proposal are not currently being considered, and would offer our support in efforts to get these valuable ecosystem linkage areas designated for protection in the near future.

Many thanks to you and your staff for your continued efforts to preserve beautiful places in Colorado.

Sincerely,  
Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Jill H. Ryan  
Chairman

Sara J. Fisher  
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Commissioner

Cc: Senator Mark Udall  
Congressman Scott Tipton